WA1TK

The Spark Gap

MAY 1983

BOOK VIII VOL V

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Hearabouts....

OUR NEW HOME

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

On Wednesday, April 6, Skid Schermerhorn, W1TTY, David Curry, K1TK, and Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, represented the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society in a meeting with the Wellesley Chapter of the American Red Cross. The result of this meeting was a new home for the club to replace our current location in the basement of the Intermediate Building which the town has ordered closed.

The Red Cross chapter house is located on Washington Street (Route 16) at the intersection of Route 9 and in fact shares an enterance with the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church where our auction was held this year. We will have available to us a meeting room suitable for our normal meeting and class attendance, though it may be a little small if we have a really large turnout. In addition, we will share a storage room which presently holds only a copying machine but which we can use for our library and other small items and perhaps in the future as a club station. These rooms are much nicer than our current quarters and should fit our needs.

The large items we now have stored in the club, such as tower sections and antennas will go to the basement of the Wellesley Hills Fire Station, which has been available to us for some time and has been used to store the generator in the past.

We appreciate the offer of the Wellesley Chapter of the Red Cross in making this facility available to us and look forward to moving into our new home. The exact date when meetings will start there and for the physical movement of equipment is still to be decided. You will be notified through the Spark Gap when any changes take place.

Elections

Our annual election of officers will be held during the May 19 meeting. Those of you who cannot attend have the option of voting by mail. Please have your ballots mailed so that they arrive on or before May 19. This year's slate of candidates is as follows:

President:
Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ
Vice President:
David Curry, K1TK
Recording Secretary:
Nels Anderson, K1UR
Corresponding Secretary:
Allan Bacon, K1BA
Treasurer:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM
Fund Raising:
Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV
Operating Activities:
Erik Thoresen, K1OGF.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:
May 5, 1983, at 7:30 p.m.
May 19, 1983, at 7:30 p.m.
Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

Auctions/Flea Markets

May 7: Hoss Traders tailgate flea market, Deerfield, N.H. Admission is $1.00 for buyers and sellers. Friday night camping available at a nominal fee (after 4:00 p.m.). Talk-in on 146.40/147.00 and 146.52.

May 14: Hampden County Radio Association Amateur Radio and Computer flea market, at the Springfield Elks Lodge, 440 Tiffany Street, Springfield, Mass. Doors open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is $1.00.

May 21: 76 Flea Market and Auction, at Steeres Beach Club, Waterman Lake, Greenville, R.I. Use I-295 to Exit 7B, take Route 44 west 3.4 miles. Flea market from 9:00 a.m. to noon, auction noon to 5:00 p.m. Talk-in on 146.16/76 and 146.34/94.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Number 23, dated March 31, 1983:

Today the FCC voted to increase phone privileges on the 20 meter band as follows. Extra 14.150 to 14.175 MHz. Advanced/Extra 14.175 to 14.225 MHz. General/Advanced/Extra 14.225 to 14.350 MHz. This expansion will be effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. W1AW will announce the effective date. The Commission also adopted Notices of Proposed Rulemaking exploring the expansion of other HF phone bands and 10 year license terms for Amateur licenses.

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Number 28, dated April 8, 1983:

Expansion of the U.S. 20 meter phone band becomes effective May 22, 1983 at 0001 UTC.

Hereabouts...

Don't forget to file your comments on the FCC's proposed "No-Code" license. For a complete text of this proposal refer to the April issue of QST. The comment period has now been extended 60 days, to June 28, which gives you plenty of time to think about your comments. This is the most serious matter which has been propose for some time and not something w want to see passed without adequate response. So make sure you take the time to write.

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

A "10 year Amateur license" was discussed at the recent FCC meeting, but no decision was made. Instead, it was decided that the method to be used in handling the matter should be by a Notice of Proposed Rule Making which will be released shortly. The Commissioners want the Amateur community to weigh all the pros and cons of such a license term, including the possible problem of Amateurs forgetting to renew due to the length of the long term. There will be no way for the Commission to pre-notify Radio Amateurs that their licenses may be expiring since that would take the FCC over budget. Also to be answered is whether such a license term should b made retroactive to all current li censees, only granted to new l censees, or granted to current license holders on renewal. No docket number has been released as yet.

Westlink Report, April 8, 1983

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450
VICE PRESIDENT:
Roger Smith, W1EOA, 235-6239
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Skid Schermerhorn, W1TTY, 235-1987
TREASURER:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
FUND RAISING:
Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:
Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, 655-7048

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR:

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Meeting of March 31, 1983:

The meeting was opened at 8:02 p.m. by President David Curry, K1TK.

The auction was discussed. Arrangements for the hall are complete, but we still need to ask the auctioneers to come.

The meeting with the Red Cross about their letting us move into their building was discussed. We discussed what we can offer them in exchange for space. Also discussed was what we would like to set up in our new location.

The possible incorporation of the club and application for tax exempt status was discussed. Research shows that the requirements are an initial application fee and some paperwork, and from then on a small yearly fee and report are required. Our club constitution would need some reworking but it is felt that this is needed anyway. Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, and C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, agreed to look into this matter further and at least try to update the constitution.

We received an initial estimate back from the people on Mt. Equinox about an AC power installation for our VHF contest site. Their plan would cost about $300, but we will try to come up with a less expensive counter proposal.

The meeting was closed at 10:05 p.m.

Minutes

Meeting of April 7, 1983:

The meeting was opened at 7:35 p.m. by President David Curry, K1TK, with about 30 present.

The Secretary's report was read.

The Treasurer gave his semi-annual report on the state of the budget and we seem to be keeping within our plans fairly well.

Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, made assignments for auction jobs. We have arranged for auctioneers and everything else seems to be ready.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to a talk on slow-scan television by Mort Cohan, KA1IU.

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

The C.B. bandits are coming out of the woodwork to comment on "No Code." Westlink has received copies of a number of formal responses filed with the FCC from "clandestine 10 1/2 meter pseudo-C.B. groups" all of which favor a No Code Technician Class license, but with "worldwide high frequency operating privileges" included.

Westlink Report, March 25, 1983

Boston Marathon

by Nels Anderson K1UR

On April 18 the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society for the sixth straight year provided communications support for the Boston Athletic Association during the Boston Marathon. With all the experience we have gained over the past years, this 87th running of the world's premier road race went off without a major hitch.

As in past years, the race was started by a signal from net control operator David Curry operating W1TKZ from the 20th floor of the Prudential Building at the finish line. This allowed all the timers to start their clocks at the same time the starter's pistol was fired.

During the race there were several nets in operation. The main net used our 147.63/03 repeater to relay the lead runner's number and time at each checkpoint, including every mile, every 5 kilometers, and the half marathon. These times were then available to the press, officials, and the scoring computer. All times were official, provided from the official timer who road the course in the television van. In addition, lists of the top five to ten men and women runners at each five mile checkpoint were provided by the checkpoint operators, as well as the lead woman's time.

The second net was used to coordinate the movement of vehicles on the course. This year the greatly improved crowd control allowed the four vehicles on the course (pace car, television van, camera truck, and press van) to move around in relation to each other and the runners, and this movement was all controlled using a 2 meter direct frequency.

The final net was for communications around the finish line and used 450 MHz to allow better penetration through buildings. This net connected the net control station with the press room in the Pru, the finish line, the computer truck, and various officials.

Our activities all went very smoothly, aided by the fact that this year's marathon appeared to be bette organized overall than in past years

Participants in this years BAA Marathon were: Bob Rudko, W1HSS; Frank Carp, WA1RIY; Al Carp, K1HLZ; Tom Kinahan, N1CPE; Nels Anderson, K1UR; John O'Brien, N1AWX; John McLeod, WA1IGL; Paul Rodman, KA1ZA; Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ; Bill Hanlon, N1ADY; Arnie Adelman, W1GCI; C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM; Ed Weiss, W1NXC; Mark Stern, N1BLH; Bill Downing, WA1PQY; Ed Sawyer, KA1CFC; Lindy Burnham, N1CIO; Skid Schermerhorn, W1TTY; Jos Schermerhorn; Vin Dwyer; Margie Stern, KA1HIA; Frank Jasinski, W1XA; Bill Tomalson, WB1DJM; Bot Gettys, N1BRM; Vern Robertson, W1EGE; Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY; Ed LaJoie, K1CB; Waldo Nason, W1LUG; Ed Parsons, K1TR; Cindy Widmer, N1BXD; Mort Cohan, KA1IU; Kevin Kelly. WA1YHV; Marc Hebert, WB1EDF; David Curry, K1TK; Tom Cook, KW4X; Schwinn Sandhu, N1CCT; and our leader Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ.

EVENTS

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

The first meeting of the Council of Eastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Clubs was held Sunday, April 17, at 10:30 a.m. This council is an effort of the new Eastern Massachusetts Affiliated Club Coordinator Lew Nyman, K1AZE, and Section Manager Rick Beebe, K1PAD, to generate more intercommunication and cooperation between the many Amateur Radio clubs of the Eastern Massachusetts section. In this first organizational meeting about a dozen of the fourty ARRL affiliated clubs in Eastern Massachusetts were represented.

One of the first things the organization intends to do is pool information on people available to speak at club meetings. In general, the council will try to pool the talents of

clubs for events that are bigger than a single club can handle and will pool information of interest to many clubs.

The organizers feel that this council is preferable to having individual Special Service Clubs, although they do not discourage clubs from applying for SSC status.

Some of the possible activities of the council suggested by those in attendance were: exchange of ideas, section or division hamfest, pooling of public service skills and operators, speakers bureau, Eastern Massachusetts QSO Party, provide licensing exams after FCC approval, coordination of major events.

Another meeting will be held June 5 with more clubs hopefully in attendance.

Auction

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

Our 1983 spring auction was held on Saturday, April 16 and returned to a site which we have not used for many years, the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church on Washington Street. The fees for the Wellesley High School finally became too high and forced us to return to the church whose facilities, although smaller, were every bit as nice and much more affordable.

Things got off to a slow start and it seemed like we wouldn't have much equipment to sell. However, since we will be moving the club we had gathered several boxes of stuff that was mostly junk to try to sell. When these boxes were placed on the bargain table, chaos broke out. In a matter of minutes, all the boxes were at least half empty and some of the items commanded pretty good prices. By the end of the day everything had been sold, including the boxes themselves so we had nothing that had to be returned to the club.

The auction itself went rather well. We had several nice items that commanded good prices and well as many smaller items. Including the profits from the sale of sandwiches and drinks, we finally reversed the trend of decreasing profits which has been evident for the past several years. We still didn't make as much as we used to in the heyday of auctions but we did come out better than budgeted so it looks like we will be solvent for a while.

A good crowd of club members were on hand and as a result the work was relatively easy. A pizza party after all the work was done was held as usual, and was enjoyed by all.

We would like to say thank you to the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church for the use of their facilities and hope that we can come back next year for another successful auction.

THE WESTLINK REPORT
THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLETTER

The FCC Review Board has reinstated the Technician license of David Hilderbrand, N6BHU, after it had been revoked by an Administrative Law Judge for violation of FCC part 97.119 (indecent language) and 18 USC 1464. The Board ruled that "findings in a broadcast indecent language case could not be applied" to the Amateur Radio Service.

The ARRL has offered its help to the FCC's Private Radio Bureau in getting the Commissioners to reverse the decision. League Washington counsel, Chris Imlay, N3AKD, has been instructed to make the League's feelings known to the FCC. Imlay notes that "the position of the Review Board.... appears to have left the Commission with no enforceable rule against the use of indecent language in the Amateur Service." The ARRL has filed a 15 page "Motion of Intervenor" before the Commission on the premis that "an intollerable and unlawful precendent had been set by the Review Board."

U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater, K7UGA (R-Arizona), has also made his displeasure known to the Commissioners regarding the Review Board decision. At a formal meeting of the Senate Communications Subcommittee on Com-

merce, Science and Transportation, the Senator questioned the members of the Commission on what they were specifically doing in regard to the Review Board decision. It is reported that Senator Goldwater made it clear to the assembled Commissioners, including Chairman Mark Fowler, that the Review Board decission was definately not in the best interests of the U.S. Amateur Service.

Westlink Report, March 25, 1983

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A "Motion for Extension of Time and Clarification" has been filed by a Texas Amateur on PR Docket 83-28. Robert G. Wheaton, W5XW, of San Antonio, has requested the FCC to delay for 12 months the commentary cutoff date on the No Code issue because of the David Hilderbrand (N6BHU) case. Wheaton states that, in his view, Section 97.119 of the FCC Rules may no longer be enforceable. This would deprive the FCC of any effective control over Amateur Radio communications content and would expose "young children" and everyone else to indecent language. W5XW says that the Review Board findings in the Hilderbrand case not only affect VHF and repeater operations, but extend to the HF bands as well, including 20 meters, which is usually used for worldwide communications. He notes that one of the prime objectives of 83-28 is to encourage "young people" to get into Ham Radio, and Section 97.119 is a controlling factor over communications. With that section of the rules currently unclear and facing a possible court challenge, Wheaton feels that this is the wrong time for the FCC to revise the license structure in a way that might lead to a massive influx of new operators over which the FCC would have no control of communications content. He feels that this would create another 11 meter-type fiasco.

Westlink Report, March 25, 1983

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The FCC has dismissed a "Petition for Reconsideration" filed by R. Haviland, W4MB, which sought reversal of a Personal Radio Bureau decision made December 22, 1982. Haviland had filed his petition after the Bureau refused to immediately allocate the remaining new W.A.R.C. bands to the Amateur Service on a secondary, non-interfering basis, and had dismissed his original petition.

Westlink Report, March 25, 1983

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AMSAT and the European Space Agency are expecting a smooth, trouble-free launch of the Arianne L-6 booster sometime between May 20th and the 27th. The formal E.S.A. investigation of the L-5 failure confirmed earlier suspicions and remedies have been taken to insure, as best as possible, that a similar failure will not occur during the L-6 launch. If all goes as we pray, Arianne L-6 will place the Phase III-B satellite into an elliptical orbit that will cover the Northern Hemisphere for several hours a day.

Westlink Report, March 25, 1983

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Commercial radiotelephone licenses may soon be a thing of the past. The FCC has adopted, and will shortly release, a Notice of Proposed Rule Making aimed at deleting the requirement that individuals hold a General Radiotelephone license for most applications not involving international communications. According to an FCC spokesman, there has been a significant drop in the number of applicants for this license because of some of the regulatory changes that were made in 1982 which affected the need for the license in both the commercial broadcasting and the General Radio services. No NPRM number is yet available.

Westlink Report, April 8, 1983

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Amateur Radio has won an important victory over Cable Television in the Chicago area. Several C.A.T.V. companies have agreed to refrain from using cable channels E and K in that area, rather than having to face the prospect of cleaning up leakage prob

lems to and from the Amateur Radio Service. Thanks W9JUV.

Westlink Report, April 8, 1983

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A problem has developed with the UoSAT (OSCAR 9) satellite. During the deployment of the 50 foot magnetometer arm, the package jammed after being extended only three feet. Controllers at the AMSAT-UK/University of Surrey are attempting to solve the problem through ground command.

Westlink Report, April 8, 1983

CHUCKLE KORNER

HANDY HINTS FOR ANTENNA BUILDERS

by VK2DXP
Wireless Institute of Australia
via ARNS

Never climb a tree you can't get down if the ladder vanishes.

Never assume an RF path is cold unless you have checked it--with someone else's finger.

No matter how much wire appears to on the spool, it is always at least 3 inches too short.

No matter how many trees you have, they are not in the right places, or if they are in the right places they won't be big enough for another fifty years.

Anything will work as an antenna to some extent, but nothing works as well as it should.

The impedance of any new antenna is always outside the range of your antenna tuner.

You can change ionospheric propagation paths--if you build a V-beam or Rhombic for a particular path, the path will move at least 20 degrees by the time you fire the rig up.

Breaking strain of a wire is easily determined--it is always 10 kg less than the minimum required to get it up in the air.

By reference to handbooks you can always prove that no useful antenna can be made from the materials on hand.

ANNOUNCEMENT

TELECONFERENCE

"Antennas and Antenna Systems, Where is the State of the Art Going" will be the subject of the June 2 Teleconference Radio Net (TRN) to be aired at 8:30 p.m. on nearly 100 Amateur Radio repeaters and HF stations acress North America. More than 75,000 Amateurs are expected to be tuned into the net and many of them will have the opportunity to talk directly to the speaker.

The speaker will be Joe Reisert, W1JR, a Principal Engineer at Wang Laboratories and author of many articles on EME, UHF, antenna design, and TVI. If you have Joe speak before then you know his talks are accurate, practical and interesting.

An added feature of the June 2 net will be a bulletin direct from AMSAT officials on the status of the Phase III-B launch scheduled for the following day.

Net control station for the June 2 net will be Dave Meldrum, KA1MI. Lou Appel, K0IUQ, will be the teleconference bridge engineer.

Other Teleconference Radio Nets scheduled for 1983 are: Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, topic to be announced later, on September 1; and Vern Riportella, WA2LQQ, on "Amateur Satellites, Phase III and Beyond", on December 1. The nets start at 8:30 p.m. local time.

The Teleconference Radio Net is a service of the Honeywell Amateur Radio Clubs of Minneapolic, Billerica, and Phoenix. Further information and requests to link into the net should be sent to Rick Whiting, W0TN. Net Manager, at 4749 Diane Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (SASE please).

Locally, the net can be heard on the Billerica repeater, W1DC/R, 147.72/12, and on the Sharon repeater, 146.265/865.

Thanks to Dave Meldrum, KA1MI, for this information.

The Spark Gap

WELLESLEY
AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY

324 Washington Street
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts 02181

MEMBER

Amateur Radio News Service

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